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PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

As the world's leading industrialized nation, the United States has a responsibility to protect and respect our environment today so that it will be intact for future generations. As a Pennsylvania State Senator and now as a member of the U.S. Congress, Representative Schwartz has compiled an impressive record of support for strong and strictly enforced environmental standards. She has promoted local and state practices that safeguard our drinking water, reduce pollution, hold polluters accountable, and preserve open spaces. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, she has worked successfully to protect the well-being and continued vitality of the Delaware River and countless streams and tributaries in Montgomery County. Her stewardship of the environment has included fighting attempts to undermine the *Endangered Species Act*, preventing the use of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, and stopping the rollback of clean water regulations.

Representative Schwartz also believes that the nation's dependence on foreign oil negatively affects the cost of energy and threatens our long-term national security. In the short-term, rising gasoline prices remain a heavy burden on hard-working Americans and businesses. Representative Schwartz has responded by working to expand the nation's oil refining capacity, reduce demand, and crack down on the oil and gas companies that are manipulating the market and over-charging at the pump. These high prices will continue unless we dramatically reduce the United States' over reliance on imported oil, which is why Representative Schwartz is championing the implementation of a long-term, balanced energy policy that is focused on establishing our energy independence, creating jobs, and providing cleaner, reliable, and more affordable energy.

RESPONSIBLE ENERGY POLICY

The United States must work to lower gas prices and reduce our dependence on imported sources of energy. By doing so, we will improve our economy and strengthen our national security. To promote our nation's energy independence, Representative Schwartz has spearheaded efforts to increase automotive fuel efficiency standards; arm the federal government with the tools necessary to severely punish energy and gas companies engaged in market manipulation; and invest in the development of new, affordable, efficient energy technologies, such as wind, solar, and biodiesel. Her efforts led federal authorities to investigate the price of oil and gasoline during and after Hurricane Katrina and to a much needed debate on ways to bring more gasoline to the marketplace during future oil shortages.

Some in Congress have proposed drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and giving billions in additional tax incentives for oil and gas exploration as the sole way to resolve the nation's energy crisis, Representative Schwartz is opposed to these efforts. She knows drilling in ANWR would do very little to bring down the price of oil and gasoline. In fact, ANWR's reserves would only meet four percent of the nation's future demand for oil. Representative Schwartz has also called for repealing portions of the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*, in which the Administration and majority party provided \$8 billion in tax breaks and subsidies to the oil and gas industry. Instead, we should invest these funds in the development of new energy sources and reduce the cost of gas for consumers.

PROTECTING THE DELAWARE RIVER

The Delaware River is a vital part of the economic vitality and economic integrity of the Philadelphia region. When an oil tanker spilled 265,000 gallons of oil into the Delaware River in November 2004 – impeding trade, putting area drinking water at risk, and injuring and killing wildlife – Representative Schwartz responded by co-authoring the *Delaware River Protection Act (DRPA)*.

Signed into law by President Bush on July 11, 2006, this tough, new law will protect the river from future oil spills by requiring all overboard objects to be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure their recovery; imposing civil or criminal penalties on those who fail to give prompt notification of overboard objects; encouraging shippers to use double-hull tankers – which are safer and less susceptible to damage than single-hull tankers; holding shippers accountable for damages caused by a spill by increasing the liability standard; and establishing a river and bay advisory committee to compile a report on how best to prevent and respond to future incidents along the Delaware River.

CLEAN WATER

Access to clean, safe drinking water is the right of all Americans. Since the passage of the *Clean Water Act*, the United States has made great strides in cleaning-up its water supply. Despite these efforts, each year more than eight million Americans become ill due to the consumption of unsanitary water. In the twenty-first century, no American should become sick because of unclean water. As such, Representative Schwartz has been advocating for passage of the *Clean Water Authority Restoration* and the *Save our Waters from Sewage Acts*. Passage of these proposals would improve the health and safety of all Americans.

CLEAN AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The scientific evidence is clear: the Earth's temperature is rising. Some scientists estimate that over the next century, the globe could warm by three to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Such an increase would affect temperature zones and rainfall patterns, endanger species, and potentially cause sea levels to rise. If left unchecked, these changes will have a profound impact on our daily lives and our surroundings.

To counteract this warming and rebalance the Earth's climate, the federal government must undertake efforts to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. In particular, Representative Schwartz has advocated for the quick implementation of the *Climate Stewardship Act*, which would cap and reduce carbon dioxide and five other heat-trapping pollutants emitted by power plants, refineries and other industries. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative Schwartz is also advocating for the increased usage of public transportation and improved automobile fuel efficiency standards as ways to lower emissions.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S NATURAL HERITAGE AND OPEN SPACES

National Parks, forests, and open spaces are an important part of our country's national heritage and national pride. Representative Schwartz supports federal and local efforts to conserve and protect these areas. For example, she is advocating for the *Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act*, which would protect 30,000 acres of land in Northeast Pennsylvania, and she supports the continued investment in the preservation of the Highlands Mountains, which stretch across western Montgomery County. Representative Schwartz supports enactment of the *National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act*, which would prevent road construction and logging within 58.5 million acres of our National Forests.